

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

February 5, 2013

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Commissioners: Chairperson Ed Dypa, Pat Jackowski, Annabelle Malone, Ed Rubacha, Lucy Bettencourt, William Wasch and Councilman, Ron Klattenberg, Claude Hendrickson

Absent: Councilman, Phil Pessina and Tom Hutton

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director and Heidi Geores, Senior Services Coordinator

Absent: none

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:02.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of August Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2013 was made by Annabelle Malone and seconded by Ron Klattenberg. Motion passed with Chairperson Ed Dypa abstaining as he was not in attendance at the last meeting.

Departmental Reports:

Acting Director Debbie Stanley:

- Debbie Stanley introduces herself to the Commission members who were not present at the last meeting and explains that she has just come on as the Acting Director.

Manager Heidi Geores:

- Free tax preparation for seniors is being handled through V.I.T.A. through 211, the State's general information phone number.
- Monthly Breakfast and Dinner as well as Foot Care services continue to be popular programs.
- Winter storms and a heavy flu season have impacted programs.
- Vinal Technical students are providing Computer Tutoring and Free Manicures on a monthly basis.
- Problems with Casino Bus Trips have come up and are being addressed with new policies.
- In February the Senior Center is hosting the second of three Free Dental Clinics for seniors 60 and older – paid for with grant funds.

Old Business

➤ Building Committee Update:

- Ron Klattenberg advised the group that grant funding continues to be sought out, some of which is pending design planning of the main entrance of the Eckersley Hall building.
- Much of the old materials (plywood, etc.) have been removed from the building by the Public Works Dept.

- Pending tax credits are expected to defer approximately 25% or \$1,000,000 of construction costs.
- **Update on Triad:**
 - Heidi Geores informs the Commission that the Triad group has scheduled several outreach programs at senior housings and AARP group meetings in an effort to bring more input from Middletown's senior citizens to the group.
- **Bus transportation to new Senior Center:**
 - Vice Chairperson, Pat Jackowski informs the Commission that the discussion with MAT has resumed in regards to creating a special bus loop specifically designed to transport seniors from senior housings to and from the Eckersley Hall Senior Center.
- **Senior Center Budget 2013-14 Fiscal Year:**
 - Chairperson, Ed Dypa spoke to the group in regards to advance planning for the Senior Center budget moving forward and into the new location.
- **Commissioners attending community meetings:**
 - Vice Chairperson, Pat Jackowski speaks to the group asking that members attend community meetings such as "Triad" and "MESP" and to encourage seniors in the community to voice their concerns so that they may be addressed.
- **Follow Up to meeting with the Mayor:**
 - Chairperson, Ed Dypa and Vice Chairperson, Pat Jackowski met with Joe Samolis to discuss concerns about the Senior Center as well as the general senior citizen population in our community. Among topics discussed were: Staffing Issues, Transportation, Budget Concerns and the Municipal Agent.

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Cheryl Jackson from the State of Connecticut Department on Aging spoke to the group and encouraged Middletown to pursue national accreditation for our Senior Center. She explained the process and the benefits to attaining the accreditation.
- A letter has been drafted by Chairperson, Ed Dypa thanking Raymond A. Santostefano for his years of service to the Senior Center and Senior Services Commission.

Adjournment: 6:10 Councilman Ron Klattenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chairperson, Pat Jackowski. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Geores